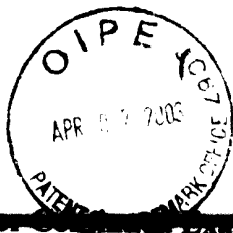




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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



PATENT

Case No. 55243US019

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Box RCE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

First Named Inventor: Loder, Harry A.
Application No.: 09/992212
Filed: November 6, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2874
Examiner: Pak, Sung H.

Title: Apparatus and Method for Controlling the Bend Radius of an Optical Fiber Cable

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR § 1.114

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR § 1.116 previously filed on February 27, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/Supplemental IDS
- iv. ☐ Other

2. ☐ A Request for Extension of Time is being filed concurrently

3. Fees (The RCE fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.)

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees or credit any overpayments to:
Deposit Account No. 13-3723. **A duplicate copy of this letter for fees processing is enclosed.**
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Other

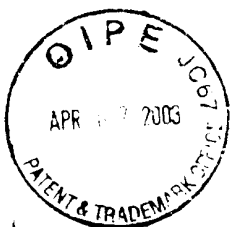
| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Registration No.: 41,793 | Telephone No.: (512) 984-4308 |
| Date: March 27, 2003 | |

Respectfully submitted,

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Signature <i>Melanie Gover</i> |
| Printed Name: Melanie G. Gover |

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company

| Certificate of Mailing or Transmission | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below: | |
| Sent to Facsimile No.: <i>552-43</i> | Signature: <i>Tom Sanders</i> |
| Date: | Printed Name: Tom Sanders |



EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Examining Group Number 2874

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Harry A. Loder et al.

Examiner: Sung H. Pak

Serial No.: 09/992,212

Group Art Unit: 2874

Filed: November 5, 2001

Docket No.: 55243US019

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE BEND RADIUS
OF AN OPTICAL FIBER CABLE

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Box AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/Madam:

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 31, 2002, in which claim 1-6 were rejected. With this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 6 is cancelled from the application. Please amend the claims as presented below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 6.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for controlling the bend radius of at least a portion of an optical fiber cable having at least one optical fiber, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a jacket of a heat shrinkable-material;
- b. placing the jacket around the portion of the optical fiber cable;
- c. bending the portion of the optical fiber cable at a desired bend angle; and
- d. shrinking the jacket around the optical fiber cable by the application of heat causing the optical fiber cable to maintain the desired bend angle.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the curves are in different planes.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the curves are in different planes.